

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 670

By Jones U (Shel)

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study the coordination and standardization of homework assignments in grades 1-8 of Tennessee's public school systems.

WHEREAS, our children face many challenges and much adversity in today's society, and their acquisition of a quality education is no easy task, even if they are motivated; and

WHEREAS, teachers in public schools often make homework assignments without regard to the homework assignments made by their colleagues to the same students; and

WHEREAS, this practice can lead to students having 3-4 hours of homework assignments to complete on a daily basis, a situation that is obviously not in the best interests of most young children; and

WHEREAS, students would be better served if teachers sharing the same students coordinated their homework assignments to produce an appropriate workload for their students according to age and ability; and

WHEREAS, a standardized approach to homework assignments in public schools would create a more conducive learning environment for the student body as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Homework Hotlines, while providing a very valuable service to students, parents and teachers alike, are often overloaded with calls and are thus very difficult to access at certain times of the day; and

WHEREAS, there is a real need to establish standards for Homework Hotlines to ensure their accessibility to students and parents during crucial time periods; and

WHEREAS, both these issues directly impact the quality of education provided to students in Tennessee's public school systems and should be carefully and exhaustively examined by this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the coordination and standardization of homework assignments in grades 1-8 of Tennessee's public school systems and the establishment of standards relative to the uniform accessibility of Homework Hotlines to students and parents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly; and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the One Hundred Third General Assembly no later than February 1, 2003, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.